



Art Haas, left, Civil Engineering Technology, confers with "client" Anthony Brunelli. Haas and art professor Patricia Evans team-taught the interior design project.

## Interior Design Students Help Re-think Downtown Binghamton

This past spring, students in a newly restructured Interior Design studio class had an opportunity to apply their skills and ideas to an authentic downtown revitalization project.

BCC adjunct instructor, and well-known photo-realist, Anthony Brunelli needed some ideas for renovating the first floor of his State Street house and studio. The five-story building was built in 1872, and originally served as McKinney & Evert's Wholesale Grocery.

Brunelli planned to renovate the upper floors for his personal studio and living area, while using the 20'x75' first floor as business space.

"Being a part of the project was a very inspiring experience for me," said interior design student Carrie Shrauger. "I learned that to be a good designer you must always use a critical eye in observing the potential strengths and weaknesses of an available space, especially



Student Eve Scarenzi proudly displays her team's design presentation board.

See **DOWNTOWN**, continued on pg. 8

## At BCC, Area High School Students Get Early Start on College Education

Twenty years ago, BCC's Admissions Office started administering an innovative program for high school students. Through the college's Early Admissions program, area students could get a head start on their degrees by taking college level courses. Today, 11 schools and more than 500 students participate in the growing program.

Valerie M. Chier, BCC's Staff Assistant for High School and Community Services, recently assumed the role of coordinator for Early Admissions. "Students and teachers really enjoy the classes, and participation has grown every semester," Chier said. "It's possible for a student to have 12 college credits earned before leaving high school. This is perfect for students who want to get a jumpstart on college."



BCC Admissions Staff Assistant Valerie Chier, left, discusses the Early Admissions program with Admissions colleague Brent McEnroe.

Students who demonstrate high achievement in academics and receive recommendations by their high school principals – or from teachers in the subject areas they wish to pursue – are eligible to take classes. Many are already taking the equivalent of 12th grade honors courses.

"The Early Admissions program works very well, especially for students who learn at an accelerated rate. It's a great option for kids who want to be challenged," said Nanette Burg, a guidance counselor at Greene High School. "We require that students have maintained at least an 85 average in English and/or Social Studies, throughout high school."

According to Burg, Early Admissions can help to ease the transition from high school to college level studies. "Having a few courses completed allows students to take lighter course loads while adjusting to their first semesters at college." Burg also feels the program benefits the high school in many ways. "The needs of advanced students are often neglected," she said.

Darilda Rodriguez-Fenton, an

See **EARLY ADMISSIONS**, continued on pg. 7

### Highlights



Broome CC's new Ice Center is nearing completion. Broome County Executive Jeff Kraham, above, toured the building in late May to watch the pouring of the rink's final concrete slab. The building will open within a few weeks of this publication.

Visit the BCC website at [www.sunbroome.edu](http://www.sunbroome.edu)  
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# 922 Celebrate Graduation at BCC's 54th Commencement Ceremony

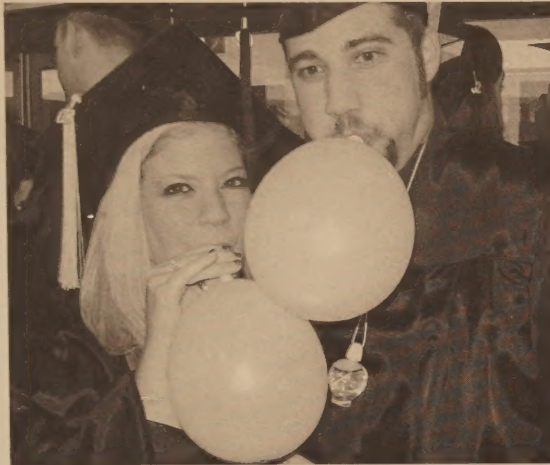
BCC's 54th Graduation was held on May 17, 2002 at the Broome County Veterans' Memorial Arena.

The Class of 2002 celebrated by filling the air with balloons, beach balls, and soap bubbles, while joyful friends and family members cheered them on.

The Binghamton Youth Symphony Orchestra provided the traditional Elgar *Pomp and Circumstance* processional, as well as a thrilling performance of the theme from *Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone*. BC Celtic Pipes and Drums led the recessional march.

Commencement speakers included: Chancellor's Award winner and Student Trustee Danielle Sepe, College President Dr. Donald Dellow, and New York Secretary of State and SUNY Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Randy A. Daniels.

Mr. Daniels is also managing partner of the Canyon/Johnson Urban Fund, an institutional fund that invests in real estate development projects in urban communities. Mr. Daniels previously served as Senior Vice President and Deputy Commissioner of Economic Revital-



ization in the NYS Empire Development Corp, and a CBS network television correspondent covering the United States, Africa, and the Middle East.

The BCC Honor Society participated in "Project Graduation...Feed a Body, Feed a Mind," a Phi Theta Kappa national initiative which asked all Commencement attendees to bring a food item (for CHOW) and a children's book (for Free Read).

The 373 male and 549 female graduates comprised:

- Business graduates: 231 (100 male, 131 female)
- Liberal Arts graduates: 398 (147 male, 251 female)
- Engineering, Technology graduates: 119 (96 male, 23 female)
- Health Sciences graduates: 174 (30 male, 144 female)

Graduates' age ranges were:

- 7 candidates between 60-69
- 100 candidates ages 40-59
- 345 candidates ages 23-39
- 470 candidates under age 23

The Class of 2002 also included 33 foreign students from 14 different countries.

Congratulations to all!

## Highlights



## BCC Students Receive 2002 Chancellor's Awards for Student Excellence.

State University of New York Chancellor Robert L. King recognized close to 200 of the University's most outstanding students. Among them were BCC's **Danielle Sepe**, of Binghamton (above, with parents Michelle and Louis Sepe, BCC 75 and 74) and **Cheryl Sullivan**, of Johnson City (not shown).

Danielle Sepe is a Liberal Arts/Elementary Education major. She was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa All-NYS 1st team (a state-wide competition for Phi Theta Kappa honor students). Danielle also serves as BCC's Student Trustee.

Cheryl Sullivan is a Business Information Management major. She was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa All-NYS 3rd team. Cheryl was also winner of the United States Achievement Academy All-American Scholar Award.

In order to be nominated students must have a grade point average above 3.81. In addition, candidates for the Chancellor's Award must have demonstrated significant contributions to the greater campus community. Chancellor's Award nominees were screened through a rigorous selection process. First, a campus selection committee reviewed outstanding graduating students. The surviving nominations were then forwarded to the Chancellor's office for a second round of review. Finalists were then recommended to the Chancellor.

In all, 187 recipients from 56 State University campuses, representing 6 foreign countries and 8 different states, were honored.

## Highlights



## BCC Hosts Annual Job Fair

The Placement Services Office of BCC hosted its annual Spring Job Fair on March 28, 2002. The fair took place in the Student Center Baldwin Gymnasium. The event offered employers the opportunity to meet associate degree candidates preparing for a broad spectrum of careers.

Employers in attendance reflected the current nature of the local economy, which is continuing to move away from industry and towards more service-based businesses. Of the 51 participating employers, 20 were health related, including 18 hospitals and nursing homes and two medical offices. Eleven employers represented a combination of childcare/education and human services organizations. The remaining employers included government agencies, employment contractors, retail companies, and banking/financial institutions.

Over 500 students and alumni attended the event. The BCC Placement Services Office currently has only 150 BCC alumni registered for its free services. For more information, visit the Placement Office website at [sunybroome.edu/~placement](http://sunybroome.edu/~placement) or call 607 778-5205.

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## Broome Community College

Binghamton, New York

...a comprehensive community college founded in 1946

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# Business Educator Sees Changes in Education and Community

Professor John Bunnell is as enthusiastic about teaching as he is about the community he helps to educate. He began teaching at BCC in the fall of 1969 and, over the years, he has instructed thousands of students from across the region. He has witnessed many changes, ranging from the tools being used to teach in today's classroom to the new concerns facing his students.

As a college student majoring in marketing and sales, Bunnell found himself tutoring his fraternity brothers. "I had a knack for presenting things to people so that they could be easily understood," he said. "I enjoyed learning, and I liked the fact that I could help others to enjoy it."

His talent for education continued to grow. In 1995, Professor Bunnell became the first faculty member in BCC's business department to receive the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Bunnell also coordinates BCC's Marketing, Management and Sales program, and he is proud of his department's ability to change with the times. "We've kept very current," he explains, "so there has been no need for any big changes, other than a little more emphasis on on-line courses."

He points out that, "The department has a lot of up-to-date equipment and labs, such as the Smart Board classrooms." These classrooms have been designed to allow instructors to operate software, or browse the Internet, via large monitors positioned at the front of the area. "These are excellent teaching tools," Professor Bunnell said; "They allow you to walk through entire software and graphics packages as a class, and to jump right to Internet sites for examples. Our textbooks also include suggested Internet sites."

A number of the professors are using more software to interact with the students. They have begun placing outlines and assignments on the Web. His advertising classes now rely heavily on computers for design purposes. "The students find that



John Bunnell is a 33-year veteran of the Business faculty at BCC.

**"Many students want to remain in the community. They also want to find decent, challenging, and interesting jobs. It's not just about money."**

using computers gives them more of a chance to be creative instead of just cutting and pasting clip art."

He is also pleased with the commitment and dedication of his fellow department members. "The faculty are very interested in seeing students succeed and learn," he said. "They have made themselves very accessible. For example, members of the accounting faculty are doing drop-in tutoring, beyond normal office hours, to give students additional help." Drop-in

tutoring is a team effort that has been organized with the help of Loreta Paniccia, Peer Tutoring Coordinator for BCC's Learning Assistance Center.

For students who are considering entering BCC's business program, Bunnell offers some practical advice: "Computer skills can definitely help; however, written and oral communication skills, math, and English are very important. BCC has strong programs to help identify weak areas and bring students up to speed."

While business programs at BCC may be running more smoothly than ever, there are some new challenges facing the students. "The current students are very concerned over whether they will be able to get a job in the immediate community," Bunnell said. "The picture is bleaker, from their standpoint."

"It's very sad when students talk about leaving the area, when they wouldn't necessarily choose to do that," he said. "I was born and brought up in the area, and I really enjoy it. It's a great place to raise kids. Many people who leave to seek employment end up coming back after several years."

Keeping the students focused on the long-term benefits of earning a degree has become a key task. "Many students want to remain in the community. They also want to find decent, challenging, and interesting jobs. It's not just about money," says Professor Bunnell. •



Smart Board classrooms have been designed to allow instructors to demonstrate software and other computer usage via large monitors in the front of the rooms.

## Campus News and Notes

### NEW TRANSFER GUARANTEE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS

Broome Community College and SUNY Cortland have signed two articulation agreements that guarantee transferability of Early Childhood associates' degrees. BCC students will receive junior status when accepted into the SUNY Cortland teacher preparation program.

The articulation agreements apply to students pursuing the new certification level of Early Childhood (birth through grade 2), and the dual certification Early Childhood/Childhood (birth through sixth grade). Dr. Barbara Nilsen from BCC and Dr. Emilie Kudela from SUNY Cortland have facilitated these agreements to provide students a smooth transfer pathway between the two colleges.

### GRANTS HELP BCC TO PROVIDE CUSTOMIZED TECHNICAL TRAINING

For the past year, BCC and the Broome-Tioga Workforce Development Board have assessed the training needs of local companies, and written grant proposals to help fund professional programs. The Board recently received a \$755,000 grant for high tech training. They were awarded an additional \$474,000 to train manufacturing workers.

With these funds, the College has helped to develop a High Tech Training Program for local companies. BCC will deliver lessons in C++, Java, Visual Basic, ISO Auditor, AutoCAD, and Technical Project Management.

The Manufacturing Training Program grant will fund training for 12 regional manufacturing companies.

### BCC AWARDS MEDALS OF EXCELLENCE IN MATH AND SCIENCE

The Frank G. Paul Medal of Excellence in Math and Science was awarded to selected high school seniors during a special

### CAMPUS NEWS & NOTES

continued on pg. 4



## Highlights



Student Adam Sandell and instructor Anna Halligan peruse the program for the Cider Mill production of Bertolt Brecht's 'Galileo.'

## English Students Find Themselves Stepping Out for 'Galileo'

With a lot of organization from faculty and a financial subsidy from Student Activities, BCC's English Department sponsored a unique educational event.

The lights went down at the Cider Mill Playhouse in Endicott, and 450 BCC seniors settled in for a special performance of Bertolt Brecht's 'Galileo.'

They attended the performance as a part of their English course, English 220: Communicating About Values. The course, which is taken by most graduating seniors, is designed to help students focus and employ the critical thinking skills they have acquired during their studies at BCC. One part of the course deals with the effects of scientific discoveries on society; class readings include the history of Galileo Galilei's 1609 claim to inventing the telescope, his astronomical discoveries, and his subsequent persecution by religious authorities.

By sheer good fortune, the Cider Mill acting company had been preparing a performance of Brecht's 'Galileo' for March; faculty thought this was a wonderful opportunity to expose students to a professional stage production of the work they had been studying in the classroom. With the support of BCC's Student Activities Office, and a student discount provided by the Cider Mill Playhouse, all of the students and instructors for each English 220 class attended the play.

Then, with the theater production as the focus, Dean of Liberal Arts George Higginbottom, Professor Fred Mellert, and Professor Richard Stoner delivered a series of related lectures to an overflow audience in BCC's Little Theatre.

Both the play and the subsequent lectures made an impact on the students; many had never before attended a professional theater performance or participated in a "sold out" lecture. The shared experience fostered a new sense of community among students from the combined English 220 classes, while faculty enjoyed the opportunity to interact with their students in a fresh environment.

James A. Gormley & Jesse Wells



Above: Vicki Bidwell receives her nursing cap, a traditional symbol of accomplishment and professionalism.

Left: Nursing graduates await their own symbolic launching into the ranks of the healing professions.

## College Responding to Nationwide Demand for Nurses

### '02 GRADUATES CAPPED AND PINNED

The BCC Nursing program's Capping and Pinning Ceremony took place this past semester in the West Gym. The ceremony is a long-standing tradition which represents the graduate's transition from student to graduate nurse. Caps are rarely seen in the nursing practice today, but the significance remains. Nursing caps and pins are unique to each school, and the pins are still often worn on uniforms to signify comple-

tion of the nursing program. Ceremony attendees wore nursing "whites," (which are also seldom worn anymore in practice) as a symbol of tradition and professionalism.

### NEW PART-TIME PROGRAM MAKES NURSING DEGREE MORE ACCESSIBLE

The College hopes to soon be graduating still more nurses to fill in the ranks of a continuing national shortage of nurses. The new evening/weekend Nursing program makes it possible for

people with scheduling difficulties to attend classes at non-traditional times, and complete their AAS degrees in Nursing in three years. Students in either the full-time day program or the part-time evening/weekend program can change from one program to the other, depending on their needs. Students in the evening/weekend program have access to the same services as those in the full-time day program, and, to ensure curriculum quality and consistency, both programs are taught by the same nursing faculty. •

### CAMPUS NEWS & NOTES, continued from pg. 3

recognition luncheon this past semester. The award was created by the Broome Community College Foundation in response to the excellence of Broome County high school math and science programs. The Frank G. Paul Medal is a tribute to an engineer whose career spanned over forty years with IBM. He was deeply committed to community service and a strong supporter of Broome Community College. The award was established by an endowment to help student leaders complete their college education in engineering.

Medal winners who enroll in the Engineering Science program at BCC are eligible to receive one of two non-need-based scholarships of \$1000 each year (\$500 per semester) for two years.

### KENYAN AMBASSADOR SPEAKS AT BCC



Robert F. Jalang'o, Kenyan Ambassador to the United Nations, spoke to a crowded BCC West Gym on March 28, 2002.

His topic was why Africa, the forgotten continent, is of vital importance to the United States in the 21st Century. •

## Undecided Students Follow New LAUNCH Plan

Each year many a student enters college before making a concrete decision on a desired career or major. BCC's LAUNCH (Liberal Arts Undecided Career Horizons) program helps these students to explore potential careers without wasting money or credits.

The purpose is to provide students with an opportunity to discover their own interests, skills and values, while earning credits towards a Liberal Arts Associate in Arts degree. "The program maximizes the opportunity for credits to be carried over to the major a student chooses," explains Terri Fadden, LAUNCH coordinator for BCC's Counseling, Career, and Advising Services.

Before the program was

initiated, there were no specific avenues for career undecided students, other than taking a Career Exploration course. The LAUNCH program has now been added to the list of selections on BCC's application for admittance. Approximately 260 students are signed up for the Fall 2002 program.

The first semester includes the Career Exploration class, and a series of "sample career" classes. These elective classes are chosen with the assistance of an advisor, to be sure that they will fulfill general education requirements. Fadden suggests that students should also "think of skills they are lacking, and need to improve on or be exposed to."

LAUNCH students attend a number of special events and

programs designed to introduce further career options. "We hold career sessions and work with the departments to give general information on their individual fields. This includes current job outlook, requirements, and the steps that can be taken to start these careers here at BCC," Fadden said.

Terri Fadden believes strongly in the benefits of networking. She urges students to talk to people who are working on and off campus, and get details regarding what their jobs are really like. Talking with other undecided students can also be helpful. "The students like to know that they aren't the only ones who really aren't sure what they want," she said. "There is a lot of pressure for high school

students to decide on a major, especially when their friends have already identified careers and are preparing to go away to school."

Many students change their major a number of times. LAUNCH students are in a unique position to earn useful credits while searching for the career that best suits them. "I tell them they are a step ahead of everyone because a number of people end up changing their minds after their first semesters," Fadden said. "It's important for them to be proactive. But, they shouldn't let the lack of a decision force them in a particular direction." •



# BCC Athletics 2001-02: a Remarkable Year in Review

More than 170 athletes competed in 14 varsity sports in 2001-2002, and BCC dominated the Mid-State Athletic Conference, winning championships in five of the nine sports.

## FALL 2001: REMARKABLE!

### Soccer

The BCC women's soccer team garnered their fourth straight Mid-State Athletic Conference championship and posted a remarkable 16-2 record. Coach Bill Rich was named "Coach of the Year" for the third straight year. Andrea McAfee was named Second Team NJCAA All-American and First Team All-Region. Joining McAfee on the All-Region team was Julie Sedlak. All MSAC honors were awarded to McAfee, Sedlak, Carol Johnston, Autumn Meyers, Rachel Casterlin, Abby Dundon, Samantha Sorrentino and Dee Phetphongsy. Julie Sedlak was named "Player of the Year" in the MSAC. Over the past five years, the women's soccer Hornets have posted an amazing 70-16-4 record.

The men's soccer team recorded a 14-5 overall record and a share of the Mid-State Athletic Conference champion-



Coach Dawn Kenyon, a BCC alum, enjoyed her most successful season since her return.

### Women's Tennis

After a ten-year absence, women's tennis returned to BCC. Under coach Reeta Hayes, the Hornets posted a 4-2 record and finished tied for second place in the Regional tournament. Nicole Albrechta and Jessica Ede led.

### Cross Country

Long-time head coach Tom Carter saw his men's team finish in the runner-up spot at the MSAC championships. Over the year, both the men's and the women's teams showed improvement in each meet.

## WINTER 2001-02: OUTSTANDING!

### Basketball

The BCC men's basketball team captured their third Mid-State Athletic Conference championship and finished with a 25-5 overall record under first-year head coach Larry King. Sophomore Mike Smith recorded his 1000th point on his way to setting a new school career record of 1600 points. Smith was named Second Team NJCAA All-American as well as All MSAC. In addition to winning the Conference, the Hornets advanced to the final four of the Regional Tournament.

The women's basketball program took on Mike Huggler as new head coach. The Lady Hornets finished with a 21-9 overall record and took home the runner-up trophy by finishing second in the MSAC. Dana Gelingier, Lisa Barnes and Casey Schwarz were named to both the All-Conference team and the All-Region team. Coach Huggler is looking forward to next year, with recruiting his main focus.

### Ice Hockey

The ice hockey program saw long-time Coach Joe Drotar resign, to be replaced by local hockey legend Pierre Laganier.

Looking to the future and the new BCC Ice Center, the icemen played hard and furiously throughout the season, finishing with a 4-17 overall record. They will open the 2002 season in their new home: the BCC Ice Center.



## SPRING 2002: AWESOME!

### Women's Softball

The BCC women's softball team set a school record with 29 straight wins. Under fourth-year head coach Tim Brink, the team seemed on their way to making their third straight appearance in the National tournament. But after losing three games at the end of the season, the Hornets lost a heartbreaker in Regional play 1-0 to end their title dreams. BCC finished 29-4. Melinda Springsteen, Jen Warner, Amy Martino all made First Team All-Region. Kristen Willerton and Kim Huson garnered Second Team honors. Coach Brink has a good nucleus for next year, with pitchers Amy Martino and Kim Huson returning.

### Men's Tennis

Head coach Tom Carter saw his team post an impressive 6-1 season record and head into the Regional with high hopes. Carter was not disappointed as Kyle

McAvoy and Josh Peters won third flight doubles. Joe Vetrino repeated as Regional champion by taking the fifth flight singles title. His teammate Josh Peters captured the sixth flight singles championship. All three players were named to the All-Region team.

### Men's Lacrosse

The BCC stickmen recorded an outstanding season. Coach Ed Warner guided his team to an 8-6 record and their first-ever appearance in the Regional playoffs. The Hornets finished with the runner-up trophy in the MSAC, with a 4-1 Conference record. Adam Comfort, Andy Cook and Joe McKeon led the Hornets in reaping All-Conference honors. The stickmen played great lacrosse throughout the season, providing their fans with plenty to cheer about. Coach Warner is looking forward to next year with the hope of repeating the trip to the Regional tournament.

### Baseball

The men's baseball team posted a 10-18 season under first-year head coach Brett Carter. Their record was not indicative of their play, however. The Hornets provided their fans with some good baseball and Coach Carter is looking forward to next year. Sophomore Chris Demtrak led the Hornets for the second straight year, and was named First Team All-Region.

### Golf

The BCC golf team won an astonishing five out of the six invitational tournaments they entered and also swept the Mid-State Athletic Conference championship for the third straight year. The Hornets have

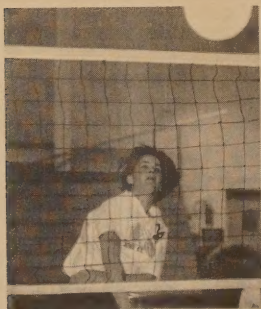


captured six MSAC titles in the last ten years. Brian Wilkins made All-Region and qualified for the Nationals. Wilkins, Chuck Finder, Pete Hull, Dan Mallery, Nick Oliver, and Derek Torrico were named to the All-Conference team. Coach Wayne Lockwood was MSAC "Coach of the Year."

### Cheerleading

The cheerleading team provided BCC teams and fans with support and enthusiasm throughout the year. The team cheered at the men's home basketball games and attended other athletics events to lend their support.

The BCC athletics teams were also winners off the playing field, lending support to other College and community activities such as the "Giving of the Toys." •



ship. Sophomores Bryan Homsher and Eric Kollar gained All-Region honors. Kollar, Homsher, and Reilly Buckley were also named to the Mid-State Athletic Conference team. Under Coach Al LaBarbera, the team has recorded an overall record of 70-23-2 over the past five years.

### Women's Volleyball

A first for BCC women's volleyball, the Hornets captured the Mid-State Athletic Conference championship. BCC was 22-11 on the season. Christine Halstead was named First Team NJCAA All-American and earned All-Region honors. Valerie Hollister made All-Region selection. Hollister and Krista Schlesiger joined Halstead on the MSAC All-Conference team.

## • Highlights •



Broome Community College Trustees Joyce Majewski and Bob Moppert test newly installed seats at the Ice Center.



# CASS Scholarship Program Cultivates Agents of Change in Central American Countries

"CASS means to me that there are no boundaries in life. You can get as far as your imagination will let you dream, and then make those dreams come true," said CASS student and BCC alumni Antonio Dominguez. "My dream was education, and CASS helped me to make it true."

The CASS Program at BCC offers technical education, job training, and leadership skills development for young adults and leaders from Central America and the Caribbean. While the program has become a catalyst for change and growth in disadvantaged foreign countries, it has also helped to create new friendships and bring cultural diversity to our own community. "Those two years made me understand how important it is to understand [other] people's values and the difference in their cultures," said CASS student Caroline DeJean.

CASS — the Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships — is a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Georgetown University's Center for Intercultural Education and Development (CIED).

BCC's association with Georgetown and USAID began with the Central American Peace Scholarship program in 1986. When that program ended in 1989, BCC was invited to participate in the creation of the CASS program. "Since we had the experience and infrastructure



International students gather to study in the Business Building lounge.

we were able to cooperate with Georgetown during the program's implementation," explained Dr. Alberto Miller, BCC's Director of Contracted International Education. "The BCC experience was shared with other colleges who were coming aboard at that time." Dr. Miller has often been invited by Georgetown to give orientations overseas and provide training to other CASS colleges.

According to CIED, the program's objective is to foster the development of people who will become "agents of change, assuming the responsibility of sharing their knowledge and skills to produce a positive impact within their communities and countries." An equally important goal is to enhance understanding and build a lasting friendship between the United States and participating nations.

The program provides students from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras,

Nicaragua, Haiti, Jamaica, and Panama with two-year technical training and short-term professional training in the United States. This educational opportunity helps to produce a strong pool of skilled human resources for the participating countries — more than 5000 students have taken advantage of the program. Half of these selected scholars are women, many of whom come from remote rural areas. Candidates must be between 17 and 27 years old, demonstrate above-average academic ability, show evidence of community involvement, and have limited family financial resources.

Annual studies are conducted to determine the unique needs of each individual country. Fields of study for the CASS program are then chosen based upon these findings. Current fields include: agriculture, business, environmental science, health, construction, technology and education. BCC has trained one hundred and sixty three students in the field of Quality Control. Seventeen students are currently pursuing their Quality Control degrees, and eighteen students are pursuing degrees in radiology.

BCC's Office of Contracted International Education Programs initiated the program under the direction of Dr. Miller. In keeping with the CASS mission, the office designs and executes training in leadership, civic responsibility and diplomacy. The office works with local organizations such as the Environmental Management

Council and The League of Women Voters, and has developed a partnership with the American Society for Quality ASQ-Binghamton Section, in which Dr. Miller serves as chairperson and Regional Deputy Director.

Dr. Miller describes CASS students as "friendship ambassadors" to the local community. They give cultural presentations at the American Civic Association, Roberson Center, local churches, high schools, nursing homes, and various college events. They also interact with high school Spanish classes via BCC's distance learning facilities.

CASS student Carlos Mendez agrees; "CASS students are ambassadors of friendship who want to contribute to their country's development and also share their culture."

CASS students live with host families during their first nine months in the U.S. "It's not only BCC, but the entire local community that supports this

program," Dr. Miller said. "Many local host families have developed strong relationships with the students. They have even traveled to visit them in their own countries." The same is true at the professional level; in 2000, the BCC CASS program, ASQ, Georgetown and the Catholic university from the Dominican Republic brought together quality professionals from Binghamton and the Dominican Republic, and CASS alumni, to share their Quality knowledge at the first international Quality conference in Santo Domingo.

Over the years, BCC has welcomed CASS participants from Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, and St. Vincent.

More information on the CASS program can be found at: [www.georgetown.edu/cied/cass.html](http://www.georgetown.edu/cied/cass.html)

## Highlights



## BCC Receives Award for United Way Contributions

Broome Community College President Donald A. Dellow and Jeff Jurik, BCC's 2001 United Way Campaign Chairman, recently accepted the Thomas J. Watson Bronze Award on behalf of the employees and retirees of Broome Community College.

The Bronze Award is given to organizations that contribute between \$10,000 and \$25,000 to the campaign. BCC's contributions, and pledges of \$20,000, placed the College in the top half of the bronze category for the first time. According to George Barna, Campaign Director for the Broome County United Way, a highlight of BCC's campaign was the 47% increase in the number of employees who contributed to the campaign. Also present at the award presentation was Oliver N. Blaise, Jr., Superintendent of the Windsor School District. Mr. Blaise will serve as Chairman for the 2002 Broome United Way Campaign.

In photo above, L to R: Dr. Donald A. Dellow, BCC President; Jeffrey A. Jurik, Staff Associate to the VP for Academic Affairs, BCC; Oliver N. Blaise, Jr., Superintendent of the Windsor School District; George Barna, Campaign Director, Broome County United Way.



L-R: CASS students Alfredo González, Wendy del Rosario, and Yeimy García start Fall Semester 2001 with their first tastes of American picnic food, at BCC Family Day.



**EARLY ADMISSIONS, cont.**  
from pg. 1

Early Admissions instructor at Maine-Endwell High School, has been teaching advanced Spanish students for two years. Her current class includes 42 students, all of them juniors. "My Spanish students are very excited to be in the class. In many ways, these students are more open to learning new languages than those who wait until college to enter advanced classes," she said. Rodriguez-Fenton recently brought her classes to tour the BCC campus. "Our visit to the College was a great experience for the students, and we hope to do it each year."

Each school chooses a different set of courses to make available in cooperation with BCC. Teachers at the participating high schools instruct many of the classes on site. Early Admissions courses have been offered in Micro and Macro Economics, American History, Introduction to Public Policy, Introduction to Sociology, French, Spanish, Calculus, English, and Introduction to Literature. The program has expanded to include some distance-learning and computer-related courses. "There has been some preliminary discussion of opening up all of BCC's Online Academy courses to Early Admissions," Chier said.

Courses completed via Early Admissions also fulfill a student's General Education requirements at most colleges and universities.

There are several benefits to Early Admissions, in addition to transferable college transcripts. Participating students are considered part-time BCC students in terms of privileges, so they have access to the Library and all of its services, and free admittance to BCC's athletic competitions and events.

The cost of the program is another incentive. Students pay only one third of the traditional per-credit hour fee. New York State and Broome County provide the other two-thirds of the total cost.

Participating high schools include Chenango Forks, Windsor, Whitney Point, Greene, Vestal, Union-Endicott, Maine-Endwell, Harpursville, Afton, Gilbertsville and Susquehanna Valley, and Chier hopes to involve more schools in the future. •

# "Education doesn't begin in kindergarten. It begins at birth."

An interview with Dr. Barbara Nilsen

BCC professor Dr. Barbara Nilsen has dedicated her life to study and advancement of childcare and education. From teaching classes in nursery school, to spearheading online courses for aspiring teachers, she has been involved in every aspect of the Early Childhood field.

After founding Binghamton's First Church of Christ Preschool in 1976, Dr. Nilsen attended BCC to obtain an AAS in Child Care, and went on to SUNY Binghamton for Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She then received her doctorate in education from Florida's Nova University in 1990. "You could say I'm a life long learner," she said. "When life seems tough, all you have to do is come to school and focus on being a good student. It can be a kind of therapy."

From 1984 to 1991, Dr. Nilsen taught at BCC as a part time Adjunct Instructor. By 1998, she had become a Professor of Early Childhood and taken over as Coordinator of Elementary Education. Since that time she has directed a number of projects intended to increase the quality of local childcare centers and educational programs.

Last year Dr. Nilsen helped secure and administer a \$45,296 grant from the Stewart W. and Willma C. Hoyt Foundation to establish a Center for Infant Toddler Professional Development. The one-year pilot project included 60 staff members from eight area childcare centers. The teachers were enrolled in self-study programs designed to improve the quality of infant/toddler education. Through the program Mentor Teachers were assigned to the participating childcare centers to provide individualized assistance and instruction. These developmental programs have become increasingly important due to a number of new challenges in the Early Childhood field.

A dramatic increase in childcare usage, in conjunction with a national teacher shortage, has created a unique environment for Early Childhood professionals. According to the

National Center for Early Development & Learning (NCEDL), two out of every three women in the workforce have children under six; half of these working mothers have children less than a year old.

While the need for childcare center staff has greatly increased, there are several factors contributing to the shortage of qualified candidates. Turnover rates are very high in many childcare centers (roughly three times the rate of school teachers, according to the NCEDL) due to considerably low compensation rates. In addition, the increasing need for professional training and credentials has limited the availability of childcare staff members. "Teaching young children, up to second grade, requires specific skills," Dr. Nilsen explains.

New York State recently instituted changes in its teacher certification policies. Beginning with the incoming freshman class of 2002, there are new certification levels: Early Childhood (birth through grade 2), and Childhood (grades 1 through 6).

Teachers prepared with these new level certifications will have more specific pedagogical skills, but local teaching opportunities may be limited. "They have visions of going back and teaching at their elementary schools. They may have to look beyond that vision," said Dr. Nilsen.

Other societal changes are bringing focus to early childhood. Research in brain development indicates the importance of early experiences. "A nationwide emphasis on literacy in early childhood is gaining visibility. People are seeing it as an opportunity we can't miss," Dr. Nilsen said. "Education doesn't begin in kindergarten. It begins at birth."

In addition to her work in the areas of care-center evaluation and professional development, Dr. Nilsen strives to break new ground through innovative course work and the use of distance-learning technologies.



Professor Barbara Nilsen has been involved in every aspect of the field of early childhood development.

**"The College's childcare center serves as a learning laboratory for many students. Our students can go there to see one of the best examples of quality early childhood education. Some use the Center for field experience, and many of the staff members are BCC graduates."**

Dr. Nilsen has also become involved in initiatives to design an Early Childhood online degree program. She is currently leading two online courses: Intro to Education and Intro to Sociology. "Teaching online is an exciting new challenge to me personally," she said. "A lot of people with young children, and people who are nursing sick family members, are taking advantage of online coursework. There are also people who have an hour commute to BCC, students working swing shift, and student athletes who need a more flexible schedule."

BCC English Professor Ann Sova and Dr. Nilsen recently presented their work on the emphasis of humanities in teacher preparation at a conference of the Community College

Humanities Association in Washington, DC. As part of their demonstration project (supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities), Written Expression I and Introduction to Early Education were taught in sequence with the same students in both courses. Reading and writing assignments centered on literature about teaching, children, and families, while out-of-classroom activities at museums and the opera gave students additional experiences in the arts. Students were also given joint writing assignments to reinforce the concept of an integrated curriculum. As a result, Sova and Nilsen will be mentoring for the next year to Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Santa Monica College, California, and Salt Lake Community College, Utah.

For those interested in attending college for Early Childhood Education, Dr. Nilsen suggests that "Children need teachers with high competence in communication, languages in addition to English, and strong math and science skills." She also recommends that students get some volunteer experience. "Spend some time around children and see if this is really what you want to do," she said.

This method of observation continues for students at BCC. "The College's childcare center serves as a learning laboratory for many students," Dr. Nilsen explains. "Our students can go there to see one of the best examples of quality early childhood education. Some use the Center for field experience, and many of the staff members are BCC graduates."

Dr. Nilsen is reminded of a recent early childhood slogan: Good Beginnings Never End. "It certainly is true of early learning, but it can also be applied to the career preparation people can receive at BCC." •



# BCC "Writing Fellows" Help Fellow Students Become Stronger Writers

In late 2001, BCC introduced a new initiative designed to boost student usage of writing assistance services. The Writing Fellows Program, implemented by the Learning Assistance Center and the Writing Center, trains students who have solid writing skills to serve as peer writing "Fellows." These students are carefully selected from a broad range of majors, and each serves as a tutor for a specific course.

"The program builds a bridge between students who view writing as irrelevant, and those who are truly motivated to write well," Susan Williams, BCC Writing Center Coordinator, explains. The goal is to help students in targeted technical courses develop writing skills in their specific fields, for a better chance at academic and occupational success.

Although many colleges employ professional tutors and provide on-request writing assistance, most students never

take advantage of these services. "It's difficult to get through to the students who see [asking for help] as a sign of weakness," says Williams. That's why a Writing Fellow's role is somewhat different from that of a traditional writing tutor. Each Fellow is assigned to a specific class, which they work with throughout the semester. This continuity helps the Fellows establish relationships with their students. Fellows meet with instructors to discuss writing criteria, expectations, appropriate types of feedback, and related issues. Then, in working with students, Fellows make written comments on drafts and hold individual conferences with the students to offer advice on work before it is graded.

Fellows receive considerable training, supervision, evaluation, and feedback; in addition to initial training, Fellows also have weekly meetings, and are evaluated by both students and faculty. They also receive

payment for their participation. Williams and Assistant Coordinator Laine Lubar, both BCC alumni, work together to train and supervise the Writing Fellows. Carmen DeVita, Associate Professor and Learning Assistance Center Chair, was instrumental in securing a grant to support the program.

Students who become Fellows are originally recommended to the LAC/Writing Center by their professors. Fellows are chosen for their success in the professors' subjects, and their demonstrated abilities in both writing and helping others. Jacqueline Shrader, Associate Professor and Coordinator of BCC's Chemical Dependency Counseling curriculum, enlisted the help of a Writing Fellow for her Introduction to Chemical Dependency Studies class. She also added the program to her syllabus as part of the participation grade. "The program works well," she said. "The student Writing Fellow is excellent and connects well with those who participate in the program. The quality of writing is improving for those students."

Discipline-based courses that include writing as a major means of learning and assessment are eligible for the program. Four Writing Fellows tutored four courses in Spring 2002. That number will increase to six, in Fall 2002. Program coordinators anticipate that future numbers will increase depending upon need and demand.

"It's important for students to know that all people who write, including professionals and novelists, get assistance with their writing," says Williams. •

*DOWNTOWN, continued from pg. 1*

that of a historical building. There is extensive planning, analyzing, and evaluating that must be taken into consideration in developing a good design."

Fourteen students from the Interior Design Studio class were split into four teams; each team worked to develop a different plan for utilizing the space. "While working in groups on the project, we learned that as designers you must always learn to balance the conflicting values and requirements that pull in different directions, and work together to resolve the planning conflicts and situations," Carrie said.

Design concepts ranged from an art gallery with a coffee bar to full-scale restaurant. When completed, each concept was then presented to Brunelli as a potential plan for the space. "The students were tremendously professional. Everyone was very impressed," said BCC Associate Professor of Art and Design Anne Cotten.

Every semester students in the course take part in a similar design project. They work together to develop a theoretical plan to remodel a commercial or residential space. Often these plans deal with the renovation of older structures. "We like to find interesting projects that students see as worthwhile," Cotten said.

According to Carrie, "It was quite an experience to have worked with an actual client and building, rather than being given a problem or space to be designed that is actually never going to be built. The ability to put a concept of a design into actual realized form is sometimes complex and very challenging, but for a true designer with stamina, the process is truly exciting and well worth it."

The most recent class was team-taught by Civil Engineering Tech Professor Arthur Haas, and Art and Design Department Coordinator Patricia Evans. The goal was to provide students with experience using Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) programs. These software tools are used to help art students visualize interior design plans. Most professional design firms have adopted CAD, and many entry-level positions involve using the program to render other artists' designs.

Many students hope to find jobs nearby and contribute to rebuilding local towns. "I hear a lot of students talking about staying in the area. But, this area has been in a recession for ten years now," Cotten said. "The reality is that many students will leave in search of jobs."

BCC instructors feel the project is a "good deal" for local business owners who are considering remodeling, and hope to involve students in future presentations. "The owners get good sound advice from both students and faculty, and there is no cost involved," Cotten explained. "This type of consultation can be expensive."

Cotten also points out that these projects are a good way to get people involved in downtown revitalization issues. "Immediately you have over a dozen people, who may not have known anything about downtown Binghamton, concerned and empathetic with the problems of the area," she said. "In terms of residential life, the guts of many cities like Binghamton were torn out as a result of the Urban Renewal Act. The people who lived in the downtown areas at that time never came back. Now the lifeblood of the city has been pulled to outside areas such as strip malls."

"We not only learned a great deal about working with an actual space or building, but we also learned the importance of revitalizing historical buildings of Binghamton," Carrie explains. "I believe projects such as this one are not only a great way to bring back the true historical beauty of Binghamton, but also an excellent way to educate interior design students about the importance of revitalization." •



English instructor Barbara Sanderson and student Steven Whipple discuss a class writing assignment.

## • Highlights •

### BCC Hosts Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest

On March 2nd teams of three to five BCC students competed with three area high school teams (Newark Valley, Binghamton, and Seton Catholic), and four Binghamton University teams, to see who could build the strongest bridge out of spaghetti! The contest, organized by BCC Engineering Science Professor Tom Grace and hosted by BCC, was part of National Engineers' Week. Student Engineering Professional Societies of BCC and BU sponsored the event. Students were given an hour and a half for bridge building. Then each bridge was tested until failure. Prizes were awarded to the team whose bridge supported the most weight. The completed bridge could contain no other materials than the "spaghetti" and "glue" which were to be applied only with a hot glue gun. Each team was provided with two sealed boxes of new, major brand regular spaghetti and five sticks of glue, as well as one electric glue gun. No additional spaghetti or glue was allowed.

#### Contest Results

COLLEGE DIVISION: 1st Place - BCC/ASEE Student Chapter - 7.534 kg (16.6 lb)

Photo at right, L-R: Emily Snyder, Stacie Washburn, Steven McElwain, Jacob Grosek, Andrew Strong

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION: 1st Place - Binghamton High School - 4.081 kg (8.97 lb) Not pictured.





## Alum Goes the Distance To Create a New School

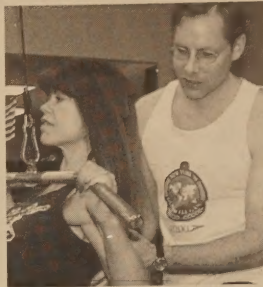
For John Farley '86, learning and fitness have always been equal priorities. It is his love of both that has led him on an unusual career path including conducting fire-walking seminars, becoming personal trainer to a number of well-known people, and founding a distance-learning college in California.

When John came to BCC from Norwich High School, he had already earned a black belt in karate; he planned to study with Master Hidy Ochiai of Vestal, who supervised a BCC course at the time. From BCC, John went on to SUNY Cortland, majoring in physical education, and became a national karate champion at the age of 21. At Teachers' College/Columbia University, he earned a Master's degree in Movement (Exercise) Science.

It was while he was in New York City that John began working as a personal trainer — the work helped pay his way through Columbia. "Before I knew it," John says, "I was the personal trainer to Stephen Rubin, who went on to become the President of Doubleday books." And John worked with many of Rubin's friends — even his boss, the CEO of Bantam Doubleday Dell publishers. "I worked with the Rockefellers at their Manhattan home and saw a different world than I had ever seen in Norwich or anywhere in upstate NY."

He went on for further training in leading seminars on fire-walking (a ritual in other countries), in which participants walk down a 10-15' path of burning coals to overcome self-imposed limitations. In 1993, *Good Morning America* broadcast parts of his seminar nationwide as the host, Bill Ritter, successfully walked across the coal bed.

In 1995, John began a distance-learning school, the Optimal Performance Institute, in California. After meeting extensive governmental requirements, the school began by offering applied sports psychology Masters and Doctoral degree programs. The faculty include a number of practitioners and



John Farley '86 with client

scholars from schools such as Columbia University and San Jose State University.

In May, 2001, John and his wife also opened a weight-management meal delivery business in New York City. On September 11, John recalls, "I received a call from our head chef, who was at our kitchen... only about 15 blocks from the Trade building. My wife was on her way to the kitchen when the first plane hit the building... Our business was forced to shut down for one week." A few weeks later, they knew they had to stop operations.

Now in California, putting his energy into the distance-learning college, John is investigating television projects, including work with PBS. He has already produced *Body Revolution*, a fitness show pilot with John Farley, which was picked up by Discovery Health, and a spin-off idea adapted for The Today Show.

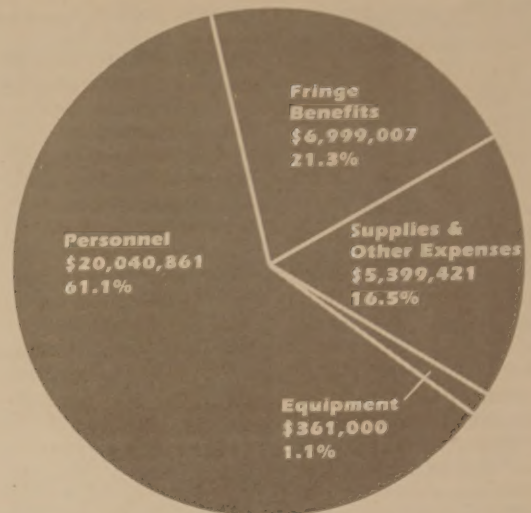
John is still inspired by some creative classes from his BCC days. He particularly remembers Professor Dave Sterling's class in biology, with hikes in the woods and trips to Sterling's home with bread students were supposed to have baked themselves. "I can still tell a white pine from a Scotch pine tree, thanks to him!"

"I found education to be important in my life, and I became a believer that education does not have to be boring or extra difficult," John said. He appreciates a professor who is a skilled teacher, not just a researcher and scholar.

With a passion for innovative education, he is exploring new challenges while in California. "Earning a black belt or earning the college degree — it's one class, one test, one day at a time."

## BCC by the Numbers

### 2001-02 Budgeted Appropriations



### Total Student Headcount

as of end of 1st day of classes, September 2001

Full-Time	3,667
Part-Time	2,140
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,807</b>

### 2001-02 Budgeted Revenues

Miscellaneous Revenues	\$2,450,030	7.5%
Out-of-State Tuition	\$1,103,256	3.4%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$396,779	1.2%
Chargebacks to Other Counties	\$1,970,916	6.0%
Broome County	\$5,685,376	17.3%
State Aid	\$9,984,495	30.4%
Student Tuition	\$11,209,437	34.2%

## ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

### 1950s

The four sons and three grandchildren of **Karl (Charles) Haltiner '52** are making their marks in the world. His oldest son works for Delphi and was voted into the Delphi Hall of Fame for contributions and inventions in Fuel Delivery Systems. He is a graduate of Penn State.

**Donald T. Mills '53** retired from Clarkson University as the Director of Financial Aid for 35 years. He is now living on the coast of Maine.

### 1960s

**Bonnie Percival '61** prepares taxes for H&R Block and spends summers in the Adirondacks. She has 7 grandchildren and says that "Life is Good."

**Raymond C. Wood '62** is retiring from General Electric after 35 years as manager-European sourced products.

**Patricia and Ross Cooley '63** actively support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, where Ross is Chairman of the Board.

After 31 years, **Norma Holt Warne '64** retired in 1998 from the State of New York. She earned a degree from SUNY Cortland and taught for one year before joining the State. She was part of the first class to complete BCC's Liberal Arts program and is proud of "Broome Tech's" help in starting her career.

**Thomas L. Reister '65** has retired in Fort Myers, Florida. He is doing a lot of volunteer work (including Meals on Wheels), relaxing in the sun, and going to the beach with his wife Tanya.

**Alyson Myers '66** was promoted to student activities coordinator (Athletic Director plus any other activity at school) at Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach.

**Lawrence F. D. Wheeler '67** retired from Eastman Kodak Company after 34+ years of service. Before retiring, he was at Kodak in the Environmental Analytical Services Department, and set up several analytical laboratories at Kodak sites in the Peoples Republic of China. In retirement, he plans on traveling the States, pursuing his photography hobby.

**Carolyn Garcia '69** has started a new business - Carolyn's Greenhouse.

### 1970s

**Grace Coppola Fisk '70** opened a licensed home-based, bakery, Cookies With Grace, in July 2000. She teaches baking and cooking classes at BCC for Community Education.

**Martha E. Considine '71** is traveling Europe, Russia, China and the USA.

**Selinda "Lindy" Miller Taggart '72** is giving up her hair on her 50th birthday, August 16, 2002. Because of can-

ALUMNI ON THE MOVE  
cont. on pg. 10



## Local Groups Support BCC Students

Cory Jacobs,  
BCC Foundation Community  
Relations Coordinator

One of the highlights of the year is the BCC Foundation's Student Awards Recognition Reception held every May. This past year, more than 230 scholarships were awarded to deserving BCC students. The majority of scholarships are made possible by annual and endowed gifts to the BCC Foundation from businesses, civic and professional organizations, local foundations, and individuals.

The American Legion Post 1645 began with a \$1,000 scholarship for one BCC student in 1998 and today they support at least 3 students annually with a contribution of more than \$4,000. The American Legion Post 1645 scholarships help non-traditional students pursuing degrees in business. Through the years, the American Legion has helped make college a little more affordable for single mothers, fathers retraining for better careers, and those coming back to college for the second time around. The best part is that recipients may receive American Legion support for the duration of their studies at BCC. A \$1,000 scholarship per year is a tremendous help to students! This year's recipients are Kelly Hust, Anita Martin and John Norton.

The Broome County Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association

has been a long-time supporter of BCC students. Under the leadership of James L. Lewis '59, the organization established the Allen Nelson Memorial Scholarship in the late 1980s for minority students in the civil engineering department. The scholarship wasn't awarded for several years due to lack of eligible students, but the Allen Nelson Scholarship is back and making a difference once again! This significant scholarship generally covers all remaining financial need. We are very glad to have the PHCC back and making a difference for engineering students! This year's recipient is Alex Adekoya.

The Good Shepherd Fairview Foundation has been supporting the BCC Foundation's scholarship program since the early

1990s. What began as a scholarship for a student in the Physical Therapy Assistant program has expanded to include scholarships for students in Gerontology and Nursing. The Good Shepherd Fairview Foundation invites applicants to tour their nursing home facility as part of the interview, giving students a look at how long-term care works in an actual setting. As opportunities in the healthcare field continue to grow, the BCC Foundation is grateful for the Good Shepherd Fairview Foundation's willingness to adapt to meet the changing needs of today's health care students. This year's Physical Therapy Assistant recipient is Christina Olevano and the Nursing recipients are Adriana Ten, Joy Lynn Thorn, and Iryna Tkhyork.



L-R: Cory Jacobs, Foundation Community Relations Coordinator; James Lewis '59, B.C. Association of PHCC member; Alex Adekoya, BCC recipient; Bernard Gurney, Executive Director B.C. Association of PHCC; Kelli Ligeikis, Chair of Civil and Mechanical Engineering Technology Department.



Guests enjoy the President's Round Table luncheon.

## BCC Foundation Donors Gather for President's Round Table

BCC Foundation donors, board members, College trustees and faculty members enjoyed this year's President's Round Table luncheon held at the Binghamton Club. Foundation President Larry Schorr welcomed guests and thanked them for their involvement with the BCC Foundation. BCC President Dr. Donald Dellow also welcomed everyone and highlighted the importance of the Foundation and how gifts to the Foundation are used to benefit students and faculty, and to also assist with equipment upgrades and other teaching tools.

The 2001 Chancellor's Award winners were recognized: Karen Goodman, Engineering Science and Physics, and Patricia Newland, Nursing, received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Irene Byrnes, Assistant to the Dean of Liberal Arts and Human Services, received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service. The BCC Foundation provided each Chancellor's Award recipient with a cash reward. In addition, two BCC students were honored for their academic performance: Danielle Sepe was named to the 1st NYS Academic Team and Cheryl Sullivan was named to the 3rd NYS Academic Team. Congratulations to BCC's finest!

Barbara Nilsen, Coordinator of Early Childhood and Teacher Transfer at BCC, spoke about BCC's new Center for Infant/Toddler Caregiver Professional Development, which has seed funding this year from the Hoyt Foundation. A new community initiative, the Center is an important step on the way to ensuring Broome County children arrive at school "ready to learn more." The joint efforts of Partnership 2000, the Binghamton City School District, Broome Community Partners, the United Way, BOCES and others have led to the "Partners for Learning" model being implemented, tested and evaluated this year at eight pilot sites in Broome County, with the expectation of measurably improving the delivery of center-based child-care services.

## ALUMNI ON THE MOVE *continued from pg. 9*

cer in her family, she has decided to organize a hair harvest at the Delaware County Fair in Walton on August 16. Hair donations must be at least a 10-inch ponytail from men, women, boys or girls and not recently bleached or permed. The hair donations will be sent to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for children. Anyone who has hair to donate can contact Selinda at 3764 Dunk Hill Rd., Walton, NY 13856.

**Bonnie Fay Herold '73** has worked for 20 years in the laboratory at Lourdes Hospital and recently accepted the position of technical specialist for second/third shifts at Lourdes. She vacationed in the Holy Land (Israel/Egypt) in March 2001.

**Bobby Delios '74** has been employed for 18 years as an employment counselor for Workforce Employment Act federal job training program for Broome County. He has two children: Dominick, age 11 and Lucille, age 5. He is an active member of Fathers' Rights Association and the Men's Association for Growth in Italian Culture.

**Deborah Dvorsky '74** has worked for eight years as a school nurse teacher for the Binghamton School District. Prior to this position, she worked at Lourdes Hospital for 19 years. She and her husband Dick have three daughters: Sara, at SUC Cortland; Allison and Kristen, Johnson City High School.

In August 2001, **Terry Gurney Lucas '74** was appointed assistant principal at Meadow Hill Global Explorations Magnet School in the Newburgh (NY) Enlarged City School District.

**Theresa C. Mayhew '74** serves on the Columbia County Housing Advisory Board and is co-chair of Leadership Columbia County Alumni.

**Christine Nemconsky Baldwin '75** is living in California and recently received her real estate license.

**Joe Rose '77** was promoted to store manager of T.J. Maxx.

The New York State Sheriffs' Association named **Ronald Bill '79** Civil Deputy of the Year at its winter conference, noting that he has dedicated much of his ca-

reer to helping children. Bill is a 23-year veteran of the Broome County Sheriff's Department.

### 1980s

**Angela Farrell '80**, began a new position as assistant director of the Cortland SPCA.

**Jim Kauczka '81** worked for 5 years as a computer programmer for Chubb & Son Insurance, and has been promoted to technical analyst. He is on the Board of Directors for the Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity.

**Joe Kellicutt '84** is working at McFarland Johnson, Inc., Binghamton.

**Pat Rose, PE, '84** has joined the Charlotte Office of Clark Nexsen as a senior electrical engineer. He received a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1989 and has worked on renovations to the University's Chapel Residence Halls and Harding University High School in Charlotte.

**Frederick Hust '86** is married with 2 children. He has been working at McFarland Johnson, Inc. in Binghamton for 15 years.

**William Paff '86** has begun a new position with Clapine, an independent power producer. After moving from job site to job site because of the nature of his work in construction, he is hoping to settle down for a while with his wife and new son, Chase. His jobs have taken him to Connecticut, New York, Australia, Thailand, Texas and now Florida.

### 1990s

**Kristin (Arrufat) Siemon '90** and husband Sean had their first child, Grace Isabella, (6 lbs, 4 ounces, 19 1/2 inches) on November 24, 2001. They live in Pittsburgh, where Kristin works as chief editor/photographer for a video production company.

**Robyn (Darrow) Gullickson '91** married Eric Gullickson in 1998. She is head diving coach and assistant to the director of athletics at the College at New Paltz.

**Randy (George) Hillman '92** has gotten his real estate license, and he and his wife Debbie are practicing real estate in New York State.

**Rose Dillenbeck RN, BSN '93** is now working as a Community Health nurse at Broome County CASA. She graduated from Binghamton University Decker School of Nursing in 1995.

**David Vining '93** earned an Ivoclar Vivadent, Inc. scholarship from Erie Community College this spring where he is studying Dental Technology. He was also named one of the top 3 dental technology students in the United States.

In 1998, **Michael Streich '94** was married to Victoria Cole at City Hall in NYC. They are the proud parents of Matthew Alexander born February 10, 2001. Michael received a BA from the University of Pittsburgh and has been working at Barnes & Noble since 1996.

**Bill Fletcher '95** is working at McFarland Johnson, Inc., in Binghamton as an electrical engineer.

**Alice K. Hartman '99** attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. and is currently serving as pastor of the McKendree and Germany Hill United Methodist Churches. She is writing her exam for the Board of Ordained Ministry, planning on being ordained in June 2002.



# BCC Civil Technology Alumni Make a Difference Locally

Broome County residents are fond of complaining about the trials of negotiating the Johnson City traffic circle. But the Circle will soon be fixed, and that's thanks, in part, to the work of BCC Civil Engineering graduates working at McFarland Johnson, Inc., a Binghamton firm.

"We have been involved in so much of the local landscape," said Jim McDuffee '85, senior transportation manager at McFarland. The firm designed the new Broome County airport terminal and runway extension, the I-88 / I-81 connector, the Washington Street Bridge restoration, the Harvey Justice

Building, improvements to Clinton Street and Harry L Drive, and is now involved with the revamping of the Memorial Bridge in Binghamton, the new Binghamton Department of Public Works Building, the Johnson City traffic circle elimination, and the "Kamikaze Curve" section of Route 17 and other improvements as Route 17 becomes Interstate 86. "BCC alumni have played key roles on nearly every McFarland Johnson project," said Jim McDuffee. "They arrive at MJ well-trained to make valuable project contributions from day one. It's obvious that our BCC alumni take particular pride in projects that improve the local area."

Dotted among the hills surrounding Binghamton is the structural design work of another BCC grad. John Harmon '87 is the Engineering Manager for Beaver Mountain Log Homes in Deposit. He oversees the daily operations of the business, from designing houses, to product development, to financial aspects of the day to day operations. The company is responsible for manufacturing about 100 high-end cedar-sided and log homes a year. John began there as a draftsman, right out of the BCC civil engineering department, and has worked his way up through the company with no additional college degree. "I learned a ton at BCC," John said.



Just one example: the Johnson City traffic circle will soon be fixed, thanks in part to the work of BCC Civil Engineering graduates working at McFarland Johnson, Inc., a Binghamton engineering firm.

## Dental Hygienists Gather for Reunion

On June 1, nearly 100 Dental Hygiene alumni returned to campus for Dental Hygiene Day at BCC. The day began with tours of the new Decker Health Science Center, then 6 hours of continuing education with Pamela Zarkowski, BSDH, MPH, JD, University of Detroit. She focused on contemporary legal/ethical issues and case studies. Lunch was served on the Roof Deck of the Decker Center. The evening program at the Holiday Inn-Arena included an outdoor buffet and a PowerPoint presentation, "Nostalgic Threads of Dental Hygiene at BCC."



Dental Hygiene Chair Dotty Walsh (L) visits with Debbie Gifford Thompson '74, at the June 1 Dental Hygiene Day.

## New Website Links Grads to Alumni News and Activities

Did you hear about the reunion for recent BCC graduates in January, the Alumni Day at Hornets Basketball in February, or the recent at-work receptions for BCC alumni? Were your friends at the Dental Hygiene Alumni Day in June? Would you like more information on the **BCC Alumni Canal Cruise and Trek** in August? (There may still be room for you!)

These events and others are featured on the new BCC alumni web page at [www.sunybroome.edu/~alumni](http://www.sunybroome.edu/~alumni) right off the BCC home page. Alumni can update addresses, request transcripts, join an online community, or get help finding jobs. The site also features notable alumni, coming events, campus services, Alumni Association activities, old BCC photos, and opportunities to support the college. Update your address and add your e-mail address, and you'll be kept up to date on upcoming activities which concern you. So bookmark the site and spread the word to other BCC alumni!

### 2000s

**Matthew Smith '00** received New York State's "Nurse of the Year" Award for 2002.

After having a baby in September 2001, **Heather Schoonmaker '01** became receptionist/typist at Resources for Industry in Walton, an office connected with the Association for Retarded Children (ARC).

**Anna E. Opie '01**, along with BCC faculty member Suzanne Shepard, presented a paper on March 23, 2002 at Kent State University for a conference on Twentieth Century Fantasy for Children. The paper, "Mommy, Can I have a Drink of Water?" is now under consideration for inclusion in a book to be published this fall.

**Richard Toomey '01** is working at McFarland Johnson, Inc., Binghamton.

### In Memoriam

**Eugene J. Kenney '49** died February 15, 2002. He retired in 1984 from IBM and had received a US Patent for a circuit board coating process while working there.

**Norman D. Wells '49** died April 10, 2001 on his 72nd birthday. He worked for L.N.S. in Valley Forge, PA until he was moved to Colorado Springs with the company. He had retired to Southern Pines, NC, where he enjoyed playing golf.

**Gino Anthony Canale '54** died April 19, 2002. He was Dean of Continuing Education at BCC in the 1970s.

**Kathy Spolsky '62** died in February 2002. She was a medical office assistant and taught at BCC, before becoming owner of Zoo Parade in Johnson City for over 15 years.

**Edward W. Swart '64** died December 3, 2001. He was the Director of Broome County Probation. Ed received his BA from Hartwick College in 1966 and immediately came to work for the county as a probation officer. He served the Probation Department for 35 years.

**James R. Merry '76** died April 12, 2002. He was a licensed New York State Psychologist and was acting chief of Psychology at the Binghamton Psychiatric Center for many years. He was employed by the New York State Department of Disabilities Determination

and had a private practice at the Center of Psychology Services in Apalachin.

**Linda Marie (Ellsworth) Youmans '77** died February 10, 2002. She was a program accountant at BAE Systems in Johnson City and was awarded a life membership by NYS Conference of Parents and Teachers for her dedication to her son's PTA.

**Susan E. Decker '84** died April 13, 2002. She enjoyed her family, cooking, gardening, lighthouses and Civil War history.

**James P. Langan '85** died in Colorado on September 17, 2001. He had received his Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from R.I.T. and was employed by Joy Controls, Inc. in Colorado.

**Max D. Borski '86** died April 22, 2002. He had retired as Associate Professor of Medical Technology at BCC and was very active in community music groups.

**Patricia (Schoonmaker) Wlasiuk '93** passed away April 3, 2002. She was working as a nurse at The Hospital in Sidney, New York.

"There are really awesome teachers in the civil engineering department."

Jim Lamb '70, senior designer at the Newman Development Group, also appreciates the civil engineering courses at Broome. After retiring from a career in law enforcement, Jim returned to BCC to pursue his earlier interest in surveying. He says that taking retail projects from concept to reality is especially satisfying. "It could start out simply as an idea drawn on a napkin," he said. His ideas have resulted in the construction of a number of local retail landmarks: Hoyts Theatres, The Shoppes at Vestal, Chuck E. Cheese, and parts of the Town Square Mall, as a sampling.

In the past few months, residents of communities east of Binghamton have traveled over the Interstate-88 Belden Hill crossover. It was designed by BCC graduate Jean Stalker '93 of NYS DOT for use during reconstruction of the adjacent bridge. In order to replace the concrete in the bridge, traffic on I-88 had to be redirected over the median and around the bridge, a challenging path because of roadway height differences and other obstacles. Jean came to BCC and entered the civil engineering program because she enjoyed math. "BCC was affordable. It was convenient. As a single mom, I still had to parent as well as get my education, for the betterment

of my children and myself," Jean said. She works as part of a support team for the engineers at DOT, in the structures design unit. It was a job tip from one of her BCC classmates, a number of whom work with her at DOT, that led her there.

And if you called DOT to ask for more information about a bridge repair or road resurfacing near your house, you would speak first with Kate Zenzel '97, regional public affairs coordinator at DOT. Kate worked in construction for about a year before moving to an administrative position.

A BCC grad is also in charge of building the new road bridges on state roads in Broome and surrounding counties. Jim Kabenek '71, regional structures engineer, oversees the DOT structures department which repairs and replaces bridges and culverts in the Binghamton region. "The great thing at BCC was that we did projects together, and that really helps here. Designs are not handled by one person at DOT. Everybody has a say in how something should be built. And that's the way it was at Broome. It was a team effort," Jim said.

Working together with other professionals, BCC civil engineering technology alumni have made their mark on the local landscape. •

*If you have news - marriage, promotion, achievement, etc. - for Alumni on the Move, please let us know about it!*

Your news:

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Submitted by:

Your Name:

Degree:

Graduation Year:

Send to: Michele McFee, Director, Alumni Affairs  
Broome Community College, PO Box 1017, Binghamton, NY 13902  
607 778-5477 • FAX 607 778-5539 • [mcfee\\_m@sunybroome.edu](mailto:mcfee_m@sunybroome.edu)



## New Book Features BCC Alum Teaching Conservation with Dolphins



Amy Miller '93 with "Rainbow," a 22-year-old "big boy" who has lived at the Dolphin Research Center since 1991.  
Photo Courtesy of Dolphin Research Center, Inc., Grassy Key, Florida

Amy Miller '93 changes lives by introducing people to the world of marine ecology with an unusual group of assistants: Atlantic bottlenose dolphins. People from all over the world come to take her course at the Dolphin Research Center (DRC) in the Florida Keys, and recently

### ■ Highlights ■



### Cheers!

An enthusiastic member of BCC's Class of 2002 joins her classmates in roaring their approval at the end of the May 17, 2002 Commencement ceremony. See page 2 for a full report.

she was recognized for her work; she is featured in a book which, according to photographer Gary Firstenberg is meant to "document the finest teachers in America." The book, *Teachers: A Tribute to the Enlightened, the Exceptional, the Extraordinary* (Lionheart Books, Inc. 2001), includes 4 well illustrated pages about Amy's teaching at DRC.

Amy may not have even entered this field if not for her experience at BCC. She was planning on a career in fashion design until she took a course with BCC's Dr. Rick Firenze (see sidebar at right) when she was a student at Broome.

"Before BCC, I thought my love of nature could only be a hobby, and he [Dr. Firenze] showed me otherwise. I was sold on experiential education and switched my major after taking the Everglades Ecology course." The course has brought BCC students to Everglades National Park for two weeks in January for more than 25 years.

Amy went on from BCC to Cornell, and earned a BS in Natural Resources and Marine Ecology, then came to DRC. She was impressed with DRC's strong message of conservation, made especially effective with dolphins.

While Amy was growing up in

Binghamton, her mother Suzanne fostered both her love of nature and her motivation to teach: "In my opinion, it should have been her [featured in the book]! I have taught many and accomplished a lot in six years, but she has dedicated most of her life to it..." Suzanne Miller teaches 2nd grade at St. Anthony's School in Endicott. "Mom practices experiential education in the most challenging place, the classroom."

Suzanne has created a classroom that amazes Amy: "When you walk into her [2nd grade] room, it's like walking outside! It even changes with the seasons, due to the hard work she and Dad did to transform it."

Amy's classroom often is the outside. She teaches a weeklong course on dolphins, marine ecology and related environmental issues, called *DolphinLab*. Though there is some indoor instruction, the highlight of the week for most students is the time actually spent in the water with the dolphins. Dr. Firenze includes a day at DRC as part of his Everglades Ecology Course, and Amy especially enjoys seeing BCC students there: "They always have great questions and are very enthusiastic about learning." One BCC student in particular



### BCC Prof a "Friend of Darwin"

Dr. Richard F. Firenze's intense interest in evolutionary theory started in elementary school. "I had an elementary science teacher who made fun of evolution. He made it sound trivial and stupid," Dr. Firenze explained. "I thought it was inappropriate for a science teacher to be making fun of a scientific theory. So, I challenged him. I told him that I didn't find it any more unbelievable than most religious theories I'd heard. He punished me for questioning him and sent me to the office."

This experience triggered a lifelong quest to learn, and educate others, about the theory of evolution. Dr. Firenze went on to receive a Bachelor's degree in Evolutionary Theory from Cornell, and a Doctorate in the same field from Binghamton University.

Firenze was recently honored with the "Friend of Darwin Award" by the National Center for Science Education (NCSE). This annual award is given to those who put forth the greatest effort to defend the teaching of evolution in our public schools.

Previous Friend of Darwin Award recipients have included Stephen J. Gould, Harvard University; Richard Dawkins, Oxford University; Niles Eldridge, American Museum of Natural History; Kevin Padian, University of California at Berkeley; and a host of other leaders in the scientific community.

Having taught life sciences from a Darwinian perspective for more than thirty years, Firenze has influenced thousands of students. Many have become science educators themselves (like Amy Miller, left). "We tend to think of this area as very conservative. However, I've never had any trouble teaching evolution at the college level. Some of my high school colleagues have experienced some controversy."

While some see the concept of evolution as the antithesis of religious faith, Firenze has a very different view. "When we started believing that germs caused disease and the sun was the center of our solar system, we didn't have to automatically give up God," he said. "Science is agnostic. You don't have to be an atheist to believe in evolution."

He has become well known for his "friendly public debates" and lectures on evolution. In much of his work, Firenze emphasizes the importance of using evolution as a grand unifying theme for teaching life sciences courses. This practice has continually drawn fire from Scientific Creationists who oppose the theory. "It is just one of the many facets of a much larger problem in our country," Firenze said. "We have an epidemic of irrationality in the United States. Scientific Creationism is just the tip of the iceberg. It goes hand in hand with getting your palm read."

had a life-changing experience at DRC, described in the book. As Amy remembers it:

"This particular man stood out from the group, because he was older and more mature than the rest... you could tell that ideas were flying through his mind miles-a-minute by the consistent introspective expression on his face. When he stepped onto the dock to meet a dolphin for the first time, he could not help but explode with excitement! I could tell this extrovertedness was not his normal way of behaving. It was all the dolphin's doing! They have a habit of making people feel comfortable enough to react naturally... He told me later that meeting that dolphin was absolutely the best thing he had

ever done in his life. He said he would never be the same again!"

Amy loves the fact that she can influence people this way, combining her passion for the marine environment with her commitment to hands-on teaching. She is an effective teacher, she says in the book, because students can see how much she enjoys her job. "You influence them in a positive way... Many leave here wanting to be a better person by acting more conservation-minded in their everyday lives and by having more respect for nature. My goal is to give more energy back to this earth than I consume from it, and it makes me proud to influence others in considering that goal for themselves." •